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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Inventor: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR

REMARKS

Dear Sir:

Applicant has the mutually owned Patents or Patent Applications which may be relevant:

1) U.S. Patent 5,589,828 issued Dec. 31, 1996, 6 Degrees of Freedom Controller with capability of tactile feedback. All of the prior art therein is herein considered disclosed to the PTO and made of record in the instant application.

2) U.S. Patent 5,565,891 issued Oct. 15, 1996, Six degrees of freedom graphics controller. All of the prior art therein is herein considered disclosed to the PTO and made of record in the instant application.

3) U.S. Patent 6,102,802 issued Aug. 15, 2000, Game Controller with analog pressure sensor(s). All of the prior art therein (Pat. 6,102,802) is herein considered disclosed to the PTO and made of record in the instant application. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed for this Patent and the instant application.

Related to Pat. 6,102,802 are U.S. Applications

SN 09/510,572 filed 02/22/00

SN 09/551,513 filed April 18, 2000

4) U.S. Patent 6,135,886 issued Oct. 24, 2000, VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR WITH ELASTOMERIC DOME-CAP. All of the prior art in Pat. 6,135,886 is herein considered disclosed to

the PTO and made of record in the instant application.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed for this Patent and the instant application.

5) U.S. Patent 5,999,084 issued Dec. 7, 1999, Variable-Conductance Sensor. The instant application 09/455,821 is a continuation of Patent 5,999,084, and all of the prior art of the prior patent 5,999,886 is considered related and of record in the instant application. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed for this Patent and the instant application.

6) U.S. Application serial number 08/677,378, July 5, 1996, currently allowed and soon to issue. Application 08/677,378 contains material common to the instant application, and with the attached amendment, a Priority claim under 35 U.S.C. is made in the instant application to this prior and currently pending application 08/677,378 and all of the prior art therein is herein considered disclosed to the PTO and made of record in the instant application.

7) U.S. Application serial No. 09/148,806, filed Sept. 4, 1998, REMOTE CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG BUTTON(S). This application 09/148,806 is allowed and will issue soon. All of the prior art therein is herein considered disclosed to the PTO and made of record in the instant application.

8) COMPUTER MOUSE WITH ENHANCED CONTROL BUTTONS, filed at the U.S. PTO on Oct. 6, 1998, Serial No. 09/167,314. Brief Summary: The application is specifically directed toward pressure sensitive (analog) buttons as scroll rate control buttons on a desktop computer mouse. Additionally the application describes novel Back and Forward buttons on a desktop computer mouse. This application has been allowed and will issue as a U.S. Patent soon.

Certifiably authentic and true as originally obtained, readily obtainable copies of the prior art associated with the above listed Patents and Applications, as well as the Patents and Applications themselves, are in the possession of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and thus are not provided by Applicant. However, at any time should the U.S. PTO request Applicant to send his best Photocopies of the prior art or patent applications to the PTO, Applicant will promptly comply.

9) PCT/US 99/28914, VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR, filed Dec. 6, 1999. Copies of the prior art from the International search report are attached and include: U.S. 5,315,204; U.S. Patent 5,440,237; U.S. Patents 4,224,602 and 5,565,891; and EP 0 579 448 A1, all briefly discussed below.

U.S. 5,315,204 discloses a piezoelectric pulse generator which uses a snap dome to apply force to cause the piezoelectrically generated pulse. This is not a varying analog output sensor. It does not have varying input pressure correlated with varying analog output. Rather, it is an On / Off switch.

U.S. Patent 5,440,237 Brown et al discloses a keyswitch which includes a dome cap (21) and an On / Off contact switch (32) associated with the tactile feedback of the dome cap. The tactile feedback is not associated with a varying input correlating to an analog varying output.

EP 0 579 448 A discloses an ON /Off switch with an improved seal for excluding environmental contaminants.

U.S. Patents 4,224,602 and 5,565,891 indicate general state of the art.

The above is not an exhaustive listing of all pending applications of Applicant's. While Applicant has many other U.S. and PCT Patent applications pending in addition to those above listed, they are not believed to create a situation of double patenting or otherwise needed to be specifically herein described because they are or comprise data cumulative to that already

disclosed. They do however all have Applicant, Brad A. Armstrong as the sole inventor, and thus can be found in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records and the U.S. PCT Office records by a search by Inventor name if desired. Applicant welcomes and invites a review of any and all of his applications and all of the prior art associated therewith.

Additional possibly prior art possibly of interest.

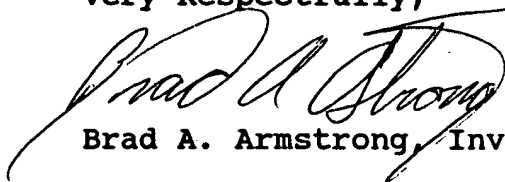
The Patent Law firm which initially filed the instant application for Applicant, also caused to be performed additional searching of the prior art. It is not precisely understood by Applicant as to what fields or even what specifically was the target of the search, however, the search seems to have been performed on a database called Questel-Orbit QWEB, and appears to have produced 24 pages of printed information related to sensors. While I do not believe the search discloses prior art that is material to the patentability of the present invention as claimed, i.e., teaching or suggesting the instant invention, I am nevertheless submitting the search results in the interest of the fullest possible disclosure before the PTO.

All 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search results are provided herewith, identified by the above specified database name being printed at the top left of each page as well as the page number to the right. I have reviewed the information of the 24 pages and find nothing that is believed to materially effect the patentability of the instant invention. Applicant Pro Se could not readily determine in which country each of the disclosures originated, or on what date or the name of the Inventor in many cases. Therefore Applicant did not write the data pertaining to the disclosures in the "Questel-Orbit" search on the form "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant", form PTO/SB/08A, and Applicant requests assistance from the PTO in doing so if this is required to have the material reviewed. Thank you.

With the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the related attachments of PTO/SB/08A, all information which is known by Applicant (Brad A. Armstrong) and believed to be possibly material to the patentability of the instant invention as claimed has been disclosed in good candor. The describing of prior art by Applicant is not to be considered an admission that the prior art teaches or suggests the invention, or that it can be combined with other prior art disclosures to teach or suggest the present invention.

I believe the present claimed invention is patentable over the prior art. I also wish the issues pertaining to Double Patenting be considered by the PTO Examiners.
Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad A. Armstrong", written over a horizontal line.

Date: Jan. 29, 2001

Brad A. Armstrong, Inventor/Applicant